GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1625
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
ORAL SUBSTITUTE THERAPY PROGRAMME
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated an Oral Substitute Therapy (OST) programme for Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of IDUs in the country, state-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early implementation of OST programme especially in North-Eastern States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) The Government under the 3rd phase of the National AIDS Control Programme has developed comprehensive guidelines for injecting drug users consisting of package of service: abscess management, needle/syringe exchange, oral substitution, condom provision etc.

(c) The estimated number of IDUs in the country is given at Annexure I.

(d) Assessment of institutional capacities for the implementation of the harm reduction strategy has been undertaken.